

MAR 29 1999

**INITIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FAX SHEET OF RECEIPT OF DEFECT INFORMATION  
REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER 49 CFR PART 573**

Assigned Recall No. **99V-055.002** by the  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Part 573 Report Date: **March 25, 1999**

MANUFACTURER: **Freightliner Corporation**

MANUFACTURER CONTACT: **Mr. Gary W. Rossow**

FAX: **(503) 735-6800**

SUBJECT: **675 Freightliner vehicles manufactured in January 1999, and equipped with Meritor automatic slack adjusters. Some of the automatic slack adjusters had insufficient torque applied to the guide pawl cap screw. Without sufficient torque on the guide pawl cap screw, the brakes could gradually lose adjustment, increasing the vehicle stopping distance. Freightliner Recall No. FL-231.**

This is an **initial** acknowledgment for this recall. A formal acknowledgment letter will be forthcoming shortly. After our review of your report and associated documents, we may have additional comments or concerns.

**In accordance with Part 577, amended July 7, 1995, a draft owner notification letter must be submitted for review prior to mailing. Also provide the vehicle models involved in this recall and how many vehicles are in the United States.**

As stated in Part 573.6, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, owner notification is expected to begin May 7, 1999. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due in this office by July 30, 1999.

If you have any questions, please call:



Patricia Wallace, Recall Analyst or Jonathan White, Chief  
on (202) 366-5227 or by FAX (202) 366-7882  
Recall Analysis Division



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration

400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

APR 21 1999

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. Gary W. Rossow  
Director, Government Technical Affairs  
Freightliner Corporation  
4747 N. Channel Ave.  
Portland, OR 97217

NSA-11paw  
99V-055.002

Dear Mr. Rossow:

We have reviewed Freightliner Corporation's (Freightliner) Defect Information Report dated March 25, 1999, submitted in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." This recall involves 675 Freightliner vehicles manufactured in January 1999, and equipped with Meritor automatic slack adjusters. Some of the automatic slack adjusters had insufficient torque applied to the guide pawl cap screw. Without sufficient torque on the guide pawl cap screw, the brakes could gradually lose adjustment, increasing the vehicle stopping distance. The assigned identification number for this recall is 99V-055.002 (*Freightliner Recall No. FL-231*).

**Freightliner is responsible for the remedy of these vehicles from this date forward, regardless of vehicle age, mileage, or ownership.**

**Additional Information Required**

In order for us to complete our file on this matter, please provide the vehicle models involved in this recall, and how many vehicles are in the United States.

Please provide this information, referencing the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's identification codes on page 1 of this letter, to this office by **May 6, 1999.**

**Quarterly Status Reports**

As stated in Part 573.6, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, owner notification is expected to begin May 7, 1999. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due in this office by July 30, 1999.



### Recall Communications

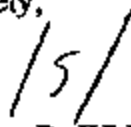
Communications pertaining to safety recalls and issued by Freightliner to more than one distributor, dealer, purchaser, or owner are to be submitted to this office within 5 days of issuance as described under 49 CFR Part 573.5(c)(9). Where this information is sent over a period time, the communications are to be submitted within 5 days from the date the communications were first sent, and furnish the date, or range of dates, each communication was issued. This includes information transmitted by computer, telefax, or other electronic means; and initial or interim communications. All copies are to be in readable form and a written transcript should be provided for each non-written communication. Also, if the communication was not nationally and uniformly distributed, then identify the criteria used for the distribution.

### Manufacturer Communications

Part 573.8, "Notices, Bulletins and Other Communications," requires that every motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment manufacturer shall furnish a copy of **all notices, bulletins, and other communications (including warranty and policy extension communiques and product improvement bulletins)** to manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or purchasers, regarding any defect in its vehicle or items of equipment (including any failure or malfunction beyond normal deterioration in use, any failure of performance, or any flaw or unintended deviation from design specifications), **whether or not such defect is safety related**. These notices or communications are to be submitted, regardless of the media used to transmit the information. Where communications are made orally or electronically, provide a transcript. In all other cases, provide the information in the media form used to transmit the information. On a case by case basis, we may require written transcripts of this material as well. Copies are to be submitted monthly, not more than 5 working days after the end of each month.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pat Wallace at (202) 366-5232 or fax at (202) 366-7882.

Sincerely,

  
Jonathan D. White, Chief  
Recall Analysis Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Safety Assurance